

PATENT



Docket No. 4451-1 (0755-4112US1)

#GAV 2882

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Frank H. FERRANDINO et al.

Serial No.: 10/024,064

Group Art Unit: 2882

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: David P. PORTA

For: X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SYSTEM AND METHOD

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action (Paper No. 3) dated May 8, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendments and remarks. Also enclosed are a Petition and Fee for a three-month Extension of Time and an Amendment and Fee Transmittal.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 43 with the following:

43. (Amended) A method for detecting elements with low atomic numbers in an X-ray fluorescence system comprising:

positioning a sample for X-ray illumination by the X-ray fluorescence system;

evacuating an X-ray focusing element with a vacuum source;

illuminating the sample with X-rays focused by the X-ray focusing element while the sample remains at atmospheric pressure; and

detecting X-ray fluorescence from the illuminated sample.

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